



Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service



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Missouri Organic Survey - 2002

Summary: At the request of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, MASS sampled 10,000 farm operators, from the MASS list sampling frame, that raised both corn and soybeans from a population of 16,450 operations. Organic standards, a questionnaire soliciting interest, and a letter of explanation from Director, Lowell Mohler were mailed on March 4, 2002. Receipts were cutoff for summary around April 3, 2002.

Returned questionnaires received at the MASS offices, asking for the operators interest in organic row crop production, numbered approximately 500 with 187 being summarized with usable data, expanding to more than 300 potential producers with interest. The returned questionnaires, without NASS names, were supplied to the client, MDA, for acquiring contact information supplied by the respondent. Total cost of project was \$4000.

Potential acreages were expanded based on the sampling rate used to indicate relative interest if the entire population had been surveyed. The largest acreage potential of soybeans for 2003 was found in Andrew county with 825 acres while Callaway county indicated 858 acres of corn available for the 2005 season. In some cases these data were based on a small number of reports with fairly substantial acreages reported as available.

Dot density maps were generated to visually identify areas within Missouri where pockets or regions of interest may be concentrated. Two general areas surfaced; Andrew and surrounding counties as well as Chariton and surrounding counties. Pockets of interest were also visible in New Madrid, Barton, Henry and Callaway counties.

It must be noted, these data are a snapshot of 'interested' producers and in no way should be relied upon as acreage that actually would be dedicated, as most indicated their interest based on higher prices and the need for more information regarding the organic requirements.

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